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ISSUED MONTHLY

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

of The Commoner, published monthly at Lincoln, Nebraska, for April 1, 1921.

State of Nebraska } ss.
County of Lancaster }

Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Chas. W. Bryan, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of The Commoner, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, postal laws and regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, associate editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: Charles W. Bryan...Lincoln, Nebraska
Editor: William Jennings Bryan...Lincoln, Nebraska
Associate Editor: Charles W. Bryan...Lincoln, Neb.
Business Managers: None.

2. That the owner is: William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Nebraska.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

CHAS. W. BRYAN, Publisher.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of March, 1921.

J. R. FARRIS, Notary Public.
(My commission expires July 19, 1924.)

It has now got to the point where it is a close race between the vigilant policeman and the alert undertaker which gets hold of the man who still persists in drinking the fearful concoctions the moonshiners and the bootleggers dispense.

Old Dr. Tariff is again down at Washington with his little bag of cure-alls. He is doubtless much distressed by the refusal of that section of big business that has made up its mind that if it wants to sell goods abroad America must buy goods abroad to accept his prescription.

Farm implements manufacturers announce with a considerable flourish that they have reduced prices from 10 to 15 per cent. This ought to bring joy to those farmers who are getting 30 cents for corn that a year ago brought five times that and a dollar for wheat that was more than double that figure.

Possibly the bankers who are so indignant because the farmers refuse to sell their stored grain the present low prices might have employed their emotional powers with greater effect had they used it on those of their city fraternity who makes it a very profitable practice to finance the speculators responsible for slump in farm products' prices.

The newspapers are beginning to run propaganda of the profiteering coal operators and dealers now that the season for laying in next winter's supply of coal has again come around. The story is to effect that there will be another coal famine. The same trick was played last year, and before the winter was over a great surplus of coal had been accumulated. The people should not fall for the trick.

Voters To Choose Party's Nominees

(By Olin W. Kennedy in News-Democrat, Georgetown, Ohio.)

Miami, Fla., April 27.—Shortly after the election last fall I heard considerable speculation in Ohio as to what course the Democratic party should take to get on its feet nationally. The result of the election seemed to have been a surprise to many Ohio Democrats, although the result had been forecast several weeks before in the east. The only way I could account for this was the high regard in which Governor Cox was held and the faith Ohio Democrats had in his running ability.

It is now apparent that the leaders who made Governor Cox the party's candidate for the presidency will not be the dictators of the nominee in 1924. The rank and file of the party will take more of a part in selecting the nominee, since it is generally conceded that Governor Cox suffered more from them than on his own account.

During the season just closed in this tropical city many Democrats of influence in northern states gathered for the benefits to be derived from the climate. They didn't have much else to do but to sit around beneath the palms and talk politics. The trend of their observations was that the party would be benefited by the dethronement of the big bosses.

Some of these northern Democrats heretofore have played in with the bosses, but they seem to have come to their senses. There was considerable talk among them of letting the people have their choice. This was a confession that the people had not been given much say in the past.

BACK TO FUNDAMENTALS

When one talks of the "people" it is difficult to determine just what is meant. The best I could deduct was that the former friends of the bosses were willing for the next Democratic nominee to be selected at state primaries.

One trouble is that the people seldom bother about politics or nominees until the game has been rigged up by the bosses and the slate presented for their o. k. About the only way for the people to get anywhere in the way of choosing their own candidates is for them to start early and stir up sentiment for someone before the bosses get busy. A dozen influential men in each county could, in two or three years, create a wholesome movement for progressivism in the party and for a popular candidate.

William J. Bryan lives here. He retains his residence in Nebraska, but there are some signs that he may finally make Florida his voting place.

I have been a guest at Mr. Bryan's home on two or three occasions, have talked with him on the street and he has called on me at my office. Other than to suggest that the party must be reorganized within itself and by its own members, I have not heard Mr. Bryan intimate in the slightest that he aspires to leadership otherwise than as a lay member.

BRYAN ONLY SMILES

But among the Democrats who have been visiting here the remark is often heard: "Mr. Bryan is in his prime, only sixty-one years of age, and will be heard from in 1924." When callers have suggested to Mr. Bryan that he might be the nominee in 1924 he merely has smiled.

When, by reference to actual voting figures, it is shown that Mr. Bryan is the strongest Democrat with the people in all the campaigns since 1896, it might not be out of order to suggest that he is worthy of serious consideration. It has been said that the present administration would settle many of the after-the-war troubles and that 1924 would bring us face to face with a number of great moral issues. If that is the case there is sound reason for looking to Mr. Bryan as a leader.

A great many men predict that prohibition enforcement will develop into a political issue within the next four years. As there is not the slightest possibility of the prohibition amendment being repealed only two courses are open—enforcement or non-enforcement, which, in effect, means enforcement of law or disregard of law. No one can question where Mr. Bryan would stand on that issue.

EXPECT FARMERS ACTIVE

Mr. Bryan's strongest support always has been among the farmers of the country. The

troubles of the farmers have been more acute within the last six months than at any time within the last 24 years. The average farmer attended pretty much to his plowing in the past and allowed the politically inclined farmers to organize parties. The time has come when they realize that it would have been better for them to have stopped plowing a few days and given their time to politics. And, if all signs are not wrong, that is what they are going to do the next few years. It may be that they will again turn to Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan remained in Miami all winter with Mrs. Bryan, who is a semi-invalid. They have a beautiful home on the bay. The gates are always wide open for visitors. Mr. Bryan responds in person to the knocker on the door. This is quite different from other places near him, where the gates are closed and visitors are warned not to enter. He will be in the north soon and is scheduled for a number of addresses in Ohio. It may be that some of my Ohio friends who are closer to him than I am can get an expression out of him as to the future. I am sure it would be to the benefit of many southern Ohio Democrats to take his advice on the reorganization of the party.

SECRETARY MELLON'S TAX

The Wall Street Journal does not wholly approve of the corporation tax Secretary Mellon has suggested to take the place of the excess profits tax.

We need not go into the argument, it is enough to state conclusion of the Journal:

"Mr. Mellon's proposal of a 15 per cent flat income tax on corporations would, by imposing what is virtually an excess profits tax, severely penalize every corporation with earnings so small that it does not now pay an excess profits tax, and would relieve practically every corporation with such generous earnings that it now pays in the higher bracket of the excess schedule. This is highly desirable to those relieved; but it is little less than murderous in the case of corporations that do not earn at least 20 per cent on invested capital."—Des Moines, Ia., Tribune.

Confronted with an organized effort on the part of the producers of the country to take charge of and control the future marketing of their wheat through co-operative elevators and a national sales agency, the Chicago board of trade comes forward with another promise to reform. As most of the rich pickings its several thousand members gets is from the back country fellows who fall for the lure of the speculative market, any reform the board promises would fall far short of anything that goes to the heart of the whole difficulty.

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

"I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all our poor, selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door
And never put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware,
Like a hunter who finds a lost trail;
And I wish that the one whom our blindness had done,
The greatest injustice of all
Could be at the gates, like an old friend that waits
For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

We would find all the things we intended to do
But forget, and remembered too late,
Little praises unspoken, little promises broken
And all of the thousand and one
Little duties neglected that might have perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again:
And the ones we misjudge and the ones whom we grudge,
Their moments of victory here,
Would find in the grasp of our loving handclasp
More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best,
And what had seemed loss would be gain;
For there isn't a sting that will not take wing
When we've faced it and laughed it away;
And I think that the laughter is most what we're after
In the Land of Beginning Again!

—By Louisa Fletcher Tarkington